Compliance Component

DEFINITION

Name	Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP)
Description	Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) is a protocol to send electronic mail. It is designed for reliable and efficient mail transfer, is widely used in government and education facilities and is also the standard used by the Internet for mail transfer. SMTP is a set of rules regarding the interaction between a program sending e-mail and a program receiving e-mail. Basically, SMTP is a set of commands that authenticate and direct the transfer of electronic mail. SMTP is independent of the particular transmission subsystem and requires only a reliable ordered data stream channel. It is an open protocol because the only assumption it makes of the transport mechanism below it is that it will provide a reliable service. An important feature of SMTP is its capability to transport mail across networks. A network consists of the mutually-TCP-accessible hosts on the public Internet, the mutually-TCP-accessible hosts on a firewall-isolated TCP/IP Intranet, or hosts in some other LAN or WAN environment utilizing a non-TCP transport-level protocol. Using SMTP, a process can transfer mail to another process on the same network or to some other network via a relay or gateway process accessible to both networks. The protocol requires that a server accept responsibility for either delivering a message or properly reporting the failure to do so.
Rationale	Protocol utilized by the email packages used throughout State agencies.
Benefits	• Can be a quick convenient way to exchange data within the enterprise • High reliability • Widely accepted • Defined Internet Standard

ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTURE LEVELS

Specify the Domain Name	Interoperability
Specify the Discipline Name	Data Exchange
Specify the Technology Area Name	Data Transfer Protocols/Standards
Specify the Product Component Name	

COMPLIANCE COMPONENT TYPE

Document the Compliance Component Type	Standard
Component Sub-type	

COMPLIANCE DETAIL

State the Guideline, Standard or Legislation	**State Data Center Size Limitations** Currently email transferred through SMTP relay servers and firewalls maintained by the State Data Center limit email size to 20 MB. This applies to all email exchanged between State agencies and most email exchanged between the State and outside entities. Individual agencies may have even smaller size restrictions. Any agency

planning on transferring data via SMTP email should consult their agency's email administrator to find out any size restrictions that may apply to them.

Security and Privacy Considerations
Data transferred in an email via SMTP is transferred in clear text and could be read by an unauthorized party while in transit. Several laws, such as HIPPA, exist that dictate how government agencies must handle sensitive data. Agencies should verify if any government laws exist that prohibit or restrict the transfer of sensitive data via SMTP email.

Each agency must review their data and determine, based upon the type of data, whether it is appropriate to transfer via SMTP. Please review the appropriate Security and Privacy Domain documentation or email encryption policies for additional information.

Document Source Reference #	

Compliance Sources			
Name	RFC 2821: Simple Mail Transfer Protocol	*Website*	http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2821.txt
Contact Information	Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)		
Name		*Website*	
Contact Information			

KEYWORDS

List Keywords	Email, Simple Mail Transfer Protocol, SMTP

COMPONENT CLASSIFICATION

Provide the Classification	☐ *Emerging* ☒ *Current* ☐ *Twilight* ☐ *Sunset*
Sunset Date	

COMPONENT SUB–CLASSIFICATION

Sub-Classification	**Date**	**Additional Sub-Classification Information**
☐ *Technology Watch*		
☐ *Variance*		
☐ *Conditional Use*		

Rationale for Component Classification

Document the Rationale for Component Classification	

Migration Strategy

Document the Migration Strategy	

Impact Position Statement

Document the Position Statement on Impact	

CURRENT STATUS

Provide the Current Status	☐ *In Development* ☐ *Under Review* ☒ *Approved* ☐ *Rejected*

AUDIT TRAIL			
Creation Date	12/01/04	Date Approved / Rejected	12/22/04
Reason for Rejection			
Last Date Reviewed		Last Date Updated	
Reason for Update			